

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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DVORAK AMENDMENT ON ANNEXATION ADOPTED BY HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS -- An amendment offered by State Rep. Ryan Dvorak (D-South Bend) to Senate Bill 524 was adopted by the House today. The amendment will give residents living near a neighborhood proposed for annexation the opportunity to speak out against - and possibly stop - the annexation.

"This is significant for the fact that right now, people who live near land that is to be annexed have no legal recourse to have their voices heard," said Dvorak. "My amendment is intended to provide fair redress for those who have been left out of the process."

If 65 percent of the residents within a half mile of the proposed annexation file a petition with the township legislative body against the annexation, then the township can choose to remonstrate against the annexation. If this occurs, the petition goes before the county circuit or superior court for a final decision.

"The people who live so close to these proposed annexation areas are always greatly affected," said Dvorak. "Their quality of life is threatened and their property taxes go up or their property values go down. These citizens have the right to be heard through their elected representatives."

Senate Bill 524 deals with a variety of local government issues, ranging from property tax sales to the definition of blighted areas.

Senate Bill 524 is eligible to appear before the House on third reading next week.